

CHAPTER 3:

Environmental Quality Council

The Environmental Quality Council was established through the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act as the body that adopts rules and regulations which set air, water and land quality standards in order to protect the public health and welfare of the state. They adopt regulations that guide the activities and responsibilities of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). In addition, the Governor appoints the NDEQ Director based on candidates recommended by the Council.



The Council has 17 members who are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. Appointments require legislative approval. Council members are appointed to represent: the food manufacturing industry; conservation interests; the agricultural processing industry; the automobile or petroleum industry; the chemical industry; heavy industry; the power generating industry; crop production; labor; the livestock industry; county government; municipal government (two members, one of which represents cities not of the primary or metropolitan class); a professional engineer; a biologist; a representative of minority interests; and a doctor with knowledge about the human health aspects of air, water and land pollution.

The Council is required by statute to meet at least twice each year. NDEQ publishes notice of these meetings, together with an agenda and a description of proposed regulations to be considered. The Council holds public hearings on the proposed regulations at these meetings. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed regulations and/or testify at the public hearing. The Council considers these comments and testimony prior to making a decision on whether to adopt, modify, or deny new state environmental regulations and amendments to existing regulations. The Council can also consider rule-making petitions submitted by the public.

Although the Council is responsible for review and adoption of rules and regulations, it does not have involvement in NDEQ's administrative functions or day-to-day responsibilities. The NDEQ Director is responsible for administration of NDEQ and the rules and regulations adopted by the Council.

Following are two tables. The first lists the council members, the second summarizes Council actions during FY2016.

Council Members

| Representing | Council member | Term expires |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Agricultural Crop Production | Rod Gangwish Shelton | June 22, 2017 |
| Ag Processing Industry | Douglas Anderson Aurora | June 22, 2019 |
| Automotive/Petroleum Industry | John Dilsaver Ralston | June 22, 2017 |
| Biologist | Mark Czaplewski Grand Island | June 22, 2017 |
| Chemical Industry | Jeremy Buhl Omaha | June 22, 2019 |
| City Government | James Hawks North Platte | June 22, 2019 |
| Conservation | John C. Turnbull York | June 22, 2019 |
| County Government | Hilary Maricle Albion | June 22, 2019 |
| Food Products Manufacturing | Michelle Bucklin Omaha | June 22, 2017 |
| Heavy Industry | John Kinter Norfolk | June 22, 2019 |
| Labor | Robert Hall Wahoo | June 22, 2017 |
| Livestock Industry | Alden Zuhlke Plainview | June 22, 2017 |
| Minority Populations | Mohamed Dahab Lincoln | June 22, 2017 |
| Municipal Government | Lance Hedquist South Sioux City | June 22, 2017 |
| Physician | Ronald Sheppard Callaway | June 22, 2019 |
| Power Generating Industry | Joseph Citta, Jr., Columbus | June 22, 2017 |
| Professional Engineer | Dennis Grams Lincoln | June 22, 2019 |

**FY 2016
Environmental Quality Council Actions**

| Council Meeting Date | Regulation | Action |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| November 12, 2015 | Amendment of Title 132 – Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations | Approved |
| | 2016 Funding Percent Allocations for the Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund | Approved |
| | Amendments to the Program Priority System for the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program | Approved |
| | Amendment of Title 131 – Rules and Regulations for Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Drinking Water Construction Assistance Program | Approved |
| | Amendment to 2016 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund | Approved |
| March 22, 2016 | Amendment of Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations | Approved |
| June 14, 2016 | 2017 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund | Approved |
| | Amendment of Title 131 – Rules and Regulations for Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Drinking Water Construction Assistance Program | Approved |
| | Amendment of Title 129 – Nebraska Air Quality Regulations | Approved |